

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
HOG AND PIG INVENTORY  
PRICES RECEIVED & PAID BY FARMERS**

### LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during November totaled 1.6 million pounds, down 6 percent from October, and 16 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,900 head of **cattle** slaughtered during November, down 200 head from October, and 400 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 836 pounds, up 14 pounds from the previous month, and 25 pounds above November 1998. Total live weight at 1.58 million pounds, was down 8 percent from October, and 14 percent below a year ago.

**Calves** slaughtered during November totaled 1,200 head, down 200 head from October, and 600 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 480 pounds, up 2 pounds from October, and 11 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight at 579 thousand pounds was down 11 percent from October and 31 percent below a year ago.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during November totaled 3,500 head, up 600 head from October, but 100 head below November 1998. Average live weight was 192 pounds, down 18 pounds from October, and 23 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 670 thousand pounds, 11 percent above the previous month, but 13 percent below a year ago.

The total number of **sheep** slaughtered during November was 200 head, unchanged from both October, and the previous year. Live weight averaged 78 pounds, down 7 pounds from the previous month and 5 pounds below the previous year.

### UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.89 billion pounds in November, up 4 percent from the previous record high for November set in 1995, and up 5 percent from the 3.72 billion pounds produced in November 1998.

November 1998 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. November 1999 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

#### Comparing November 1999 with November 1998

**Beef production** at 2.15 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous record high for November set in 1995, and 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 6 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,216 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 19 million pounds, 2 percent below the previous record low for November set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 104 thousand head, down 7 percent from November 1998. The average live weight was 15 pounds above last year, at 300 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous record high for November set last year. Hog kill totaled 8.90 million head, 1 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 22 million pounds, was up 12 percent from November 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 329 thousand head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 2 pounds from November a year ago.

January-November red meat production was 42.3 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent. #

### COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION

ITEM	LOUISIANA					UNITED STATES			
	October	November		January - November		November		January - November	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Number, thousand head					Number, thousand head			
Cattle	2.1	2.3	1.9	23.5	21.6	2,772.6	2,942.9	32,569.3	33,283.5
Calves	1.4	1.8	1.2	19.0	13.5	112.2	104.4	1,327.9	1,171.7
Hogs	2.9	3.6	3.5	33.0	32.2	8,809.0	8,898.3	91,603.4	92,667.7
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.6	2.5	298.1	329.2	3,448.4	3,342.5
	Total live weight, thousand pounds					Total live weight, thousand pounds			
Cattle	1,725	1,840	1,584	19,181	16,955	3,356,978	3,579,187	39,158,451	40,213,191
Calves	651	840	579	9,029	6,332	31,975	31,280	379,872	340,168
Hogs	601	768	670	7,087	6,779	2,299,611	2,329,416	23,445,962	23,937,499
Sheep & Lambs	16	15	12	255	245	38,710	43,526	455,055	442,444
	Average live weight, pounds					Average live weight, pounds			
Cattle	822	811	836	816	785	1,211	1,216	1,202	1,208
Calves	478	469	480	475	469	285	300	286	290
Hogs	210	215	192	215	211	261	262	256	258
Sheep & Lambs	85	83	78	98	98	130	132	132	132
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
Red meat, million	1.7	1.9	1.6	19.7	17.2	3,725	3,894	41,189	42,274

## LOUISIANA HOG INVENTORY

The total inventory for December 1, 1999, at 29,000, was 1,000 head below December 1998, and 3,000 below December 1997. At 4,000 head, the Louisiana breeding hog inventory was 1,000 head below the December 1 figure a year ago. Market hog inventories totaled 25,000 head, unchanged from a year earlier. At 42,000 head, the 1999 pig crop was down 40 percent from the 70,000 head pig crop in 1998.

### U. S. HOG INVENTORY

U. S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1999, was 59.4 million head. This was 4 percent below December 1998, and 2 percent below September 1, 1999.

Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was down 7 percent from December 1, 1998, and down 1 percent from September 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 4 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1999 U. S. pig crop, at 25.2 million head, was 3 percent less than 1998, and 1 percent less than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, 4 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.78 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.66 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 1999-February 2000 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for March-May 2000, at 2.83 million sows, are 5 percent below the same period last year and 8 percent below 1998.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 98,460 during 1999, down 14 percent from last year and 19 percent below 1997. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 7 percent of the operations and 69 percent of the inventory. This is the fourth time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at 2,005 accounted for 46.5 percent of the total inventory, up from 42 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory up from 23 percent last year.

### HOGS AND PIGS ON FARMS, DECEMBER 1

ITEM	LOUISIANA		UNITED STATES 1/	
	1998	1999	1998 2/	1999
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----1,000 Head-----	
Total Hogs and Pigs	30	29	62,206	59,407
Breeding	5	4	6,682	6,244
Market	25	25	55,523	53,164
Under 60 pounds	10	11	20,140	19,298
60-119 pounds	7	7	13,631	13,106
120-179 pounds	5	4	11,585	11,073
180 pounds & over	3	5	10,168	9,687
	Number		Number	
Operations with Hogs	600	600	113,830	98,460

1/Weight groups may not add to market due to rounding. 2/Revised.

### Annual Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop by State and United States, December - November 1998-1999 1/

State	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----Number-----		-----1,000 Head-----	
Alabama	36.0	33.0	8.06	8.09	290.0	267.0
Arkansas	225.0	223.0	8.48	8.48	1,907.0	1,891.0
Louisiana	9.4	5.8	7.45	7.24	70.0	42.0
Mississippi	59.0	57.5	8.86	9.08	523.0	522.0
Texas	116.0	151.0	8.46	9.30	981.0	1,404.0
United States	12,061.0	11,666.0	8.71	8.79	105,005.0	102,569.0

1/December preceding year.

## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 2 PERCENT

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 91 based on 1990-92= 100, down 2.2 percent from the November index. Lower prices for milk, soybeans, wheat, and oranges more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, calves, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, grapes, soybeans, and corn more than offset the relatively higher marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes account for about one-half point of the December index decrease.

Compared with December 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 7.1 percent lower. Price decreases from December 1998 for milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and apples.

## PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The December Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 117 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from November but 2.6 percent above December 1998. Lower prices in December for hay and forages, mixed fertilizers, insecticides, and feed supplements were offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, diesel fuel, and feed grains.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

ITEM	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY
	December 1998	November 1999	December 1999 1/	December 1998	November 1999	December 1999 1/
	-----dollars-----			-----dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.51	4.64	4.59	5.37	4.45	4.29
Rice, per cwt	9.38	5.96	6.03	9.06	6.11	6.14
Upland Cotton, per pound	.564	.423	2/ .411	.606	.447	2/ .436
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	N/A	N/A	N/A	77.50	74.00	71.10
Beef Cattle, per cwt	40.40	30.90	34.00	56.80	66.20	66.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	62.30	72.70	79.00	60.30	70.90	70.80
Cows, per cwt	30.10	45.90	48.40	30.80	33.60	34.70
Calves, per cwt	75.20	84.80	93.00	80.20	93.00	97.80
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.390	.374	.368
Eggs all, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.758	.643	.613
Milk all, per cwt 3/	18.80	18.20	15.00	18.00	14.30	12.40

1/Mid-month; 2/Based on sales during the first half of the month; 3/Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. N/A = Not Available

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